



J. TYLER McCAULEY  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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February 7, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley   
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – NEW WORLD  
INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM, RAVENWOOD DRIVE,  
JERENELLA ROAD, AND RANCHERO ROAD GROUP HOMES.**

We have completed a review of Ravenwood Drive, Jerenella Road, and Ranchero Road Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by New World Independent Living Program, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Ravenwood Drive, Jerenella Road, and Ranchero Road Group Homes are each six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 12-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Ravenwood Drive Group Home was providing services for five DCFS children, and one Riverside County child. Jerenella Road Group Home was providing services for six DCFS children. Ranchero Road Group Home was providing services for four DCFS children, and two Riverside County children.

Ravenwood Drive, Jerenella Road, and Ranchero Road Group Homes are located in Riverside County.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

### **Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

### **Summary of Findings**

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address several deficient areas.

The three Group Homes need to landscape the backyards; include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans; develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short and long term goals; and provide all children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

Ravenwood Drive Group Home needs to replace the ceiling panel for the kitchen light; and repair or replace the bathtub, base board and floor tiles in the bathroom.

Jerenella Road Group Home needs to landscape the front yard; clean the cabinets, and replace the broken drawers in the kitchen; clean the walls and floors, and repair the broken cabinet doors in both bathrooms; clean or replace the sofa, and repair or replace the damaged carpet in the den; clean the walls in the bedrooms; and provide children with age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment, educational resources, and a computer with a variety of programs.

Ranchero Road Group Home needs to maintain current court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medication; repair or replace the blinds in the family room; repair the faucet in bathroom one; repair or replace the broken dresser; and patch the hole in the closet door in bedroom two.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

### **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:ec

[http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group\\_home.asp](http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp)

### **Attachments**

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS  
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer  
Celeste McKnight, Executive Director, New World Independent Living Program  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**New World Independent Living Program  
Ravenwood Drive  
18815 Ravenwood Drive  
Perris, California 92570  
Phone: 909-789-6585  
License Number: 336402377  
Rate Classification Level: 10**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Ravenwood Drive Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front yard is clean. However, the back yard is not adequately landscaped; there are overgrown grass and weeds, and the fence along the side of the yard is not secure.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. However, the ceiling panel for the kitchen light is missing. In the bathroom, the bathtub finish is worn and stained, the base board behind the toilet has water damage, and the floor tiles are lifting along the toilet and bathtub.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

**Recommendations**

**1. New World Independent Living Program Group Home management:**

- a. Provide appropriate landscape in the backyard.**
- b. Replace or secure the fence in the backyard.**

- c. Replace the panel for the kitchen light fixture.
- d. Repair or replace the bathtub.
- e. Repair or replace the base board behind the toilet.
- f. Repair or replace the bathroom floor tiles.

## **II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current; however, input from the treatment team and the child are not included in the development and implementation of the NSPs. The NSPs are not comprehensive, and do not include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

### **Recommendations**

#### **2. New World Independent Living Program Group Home management:**

- a. Include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs.
- b. Develop comprehensive NSPs that are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include short and long term goals.

## **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**IV. Recreation and Activities****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**V. Psychotropic Medication****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents****Comments:**

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VI. Personal Rights**

### **Method of assessment – Interviews with children**

**Sample size: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to

select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

Children spend their allowances as they choose. However, the Group Home does not provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

**Recommendation**

- 3. New World Independent Living Program management provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.**



**New World Independent Living Program  
Jerenella Road  
13991 Jerenella Road  
Moreno Valley, California 92557  
Phone: 909-924-4396  
License Number: 336402677  
Rate Classification Level: 10**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Jerenella Group Home is located in a residential community. Generally, the exterior of the Group Home is adequately maintained. However, the front and back yards are not clean or adequately landscaped; there are overgrown grass, weeds, and shrubbery along the fence.

There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the common quarters are not neat and clean. In the kitchen, the cabinets, walls and floors are dirty, and the refrigerator drawers are broken. In both bathrooms, the cabinet doors are broken. In the den, the sofa is worn and dirty, and the carpet along the base boards is damaged.

Overall, Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, the walls in all the bedrooms are dirty.

The Group Home provides a TV, a DVD player, and an electronic game. However, the Group Home does not maintain age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment, or board games. Additionally, books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs are not readily available to children.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

**Recommendations**

**1. New World Independent Living Program management:**

- a. Provide appropriate landscape in the front and back yards.**

- b. Clean the kitchen cabinets, walls and floors.
- c. Replace the broken refrigerator drawers.
- d. Repair the broken cabinet drawers in both bathrooms.
- e. Replace the worn sofa.
- f. Repair or replace the carpet along the baseboard in the den.
- g. Clean or paint the walls in the bedroom.
- h. Maintain age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment, including board games.
- i. Maintain books and resource materials including a computer with a variety of programs readily available for the children's use.

## **II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

### **Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Service Plans (NSPs) are current; however, the treatment team and input from the child are not included in the development or implementation of the NSPs. The NSPs are not comprehensive, and do not include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

### **Recommendations**

#### **2. New World Independent Living Program Group Home management:**

- a. Include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs.
- b. Develop comprehensive NSPs that are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include short and long term goals.

### **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

#### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

#### **Recommendation**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

### **IV. Recreation and Activities**

#### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

#### **Recommendation**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **V. Psychotropic Medication**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

#### **Comments:**

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

#### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VI. Personal Rights**

### **Method of assessment –Interviews with children**

#### **Sample size: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

### **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

#### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

Children spend their allowances as they choose. However, the Group Home does not provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

### **Recommendation**

- 3. New World Independent Living Program management provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.**

**New World Independent Living Program  
Ranchero Road  
17007 Ranchero Road  
Riverside, California 925004  
Phone: 909-776-4195  
License Number: 336408689  
Rate Classification Level: 10**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Ranchero Road Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is adequately maintained. The front yard is clean. However, the back yard is not adequately landscaped; there are overgrown grass and weeds.

Generally, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, in the family room the slats on the blinds are missing; and the faucet does not work in bathroom one.

Overall, children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. However, in bedroom two, the dresser is worn, the drawers are off the hinges, the knobs are broken, and there is a hole in the closet door. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

**Recommendations**

- 1. New World Independent Living Program management:**
  - a. Provide appropriate landscape in the back yard.**
  - b. Repair or replace the blinds in the family room.**
  - c. Repair the faucet in bathroom one.**

- d. Repair or replace the dresser, drawers, and knobs in bedroom two.
- e. Repair the closet door in bedroom two.

## **II. Program Services**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Service Plans (NSPs) are current; however, the treatment team and input from the child are not included in the development or implementation of the NSPs. The NSPs are not comprehensive, and do not include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

### **Recommendations**

#### **2. New World Independent Living Program Group Home management:**

- a. Include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs .
- b. Develop comprehensive NSPs that are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include short and long term goals.

## **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

### **Comments:**

Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist. However, one child does not have a current authorization for the medication he is taking.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

### **Recommendation**

- 3. New World Independent Living Program management maintain current court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medication.**



## **VI. Personal Rights**

### **Method of assessment –Interviews with children**

**Sample size: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

Children spend their allowances as they choose. However, the Group Home does not provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

**Recommendation**

- 4. New World Independent Living Program management provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.**

## New World Independent Living

May 11, 2006

Dept. of Auditor Controller,  
500 W. Temple St. Room 515-A  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90012  
Re: Corrective Action Plan: RAVENWOOD

Attention: Candace Rhue

The following recommendations have been implemented at New World Independent Living Program  
(SITE 1) 18815 RAVENWOOD DR. PERRIS, CA. 92570

### RECOMMENDATION #1 PROVIDE APPROPRIATE LANDSCAPE IN THE BACKYARD:

- A. Backyard land scaped, weeds removed.
- B. Fence will be replaced by the property owner, upon getting 3 estimates by August 2006.
- C. Replaced the panel for the kitchen light fixture. (receipt attached)
- D. Bathroom reglazed (receipt attached)
- E. Repaired the baseboard behind the toilet (receipt attached)
- F. Regrooved bathroom tile. (receipt attached)

### RECOMMENDATION #2 PROGRAM SERVICES:

- A. New World will develop a treatment team to include input from the child in the development and implementation of the N.S.P.'s and will be maintained quarterly.
- B. New World I.L.P. will develop a comprehensive, more measurable N.S.P.'s that are more specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and includes long and short-term goals, that will be maintained on a quarterly basis.

### RECOMMENDATION #3 ALLOWANCE INCREASE:

- A. New World I.L.P. has implemented and will maintain the required weekly allowance increase of \$10.00.

Yolanda Sanchez

Training Officer

# New World Independent Living

May 11, 2006

Dept. of Auditor Controller,  
500 W. Temple St. Room 515-A  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90012

Re: Corrective Action Plan: JERANELLA

Attention: Candace Rhue

The following recommendations have been implemented at New World Independent Living Program  
(Site 2) 13991 JERANELLA CT. MORENO VALLEY, CA. 92555

## RECOMMENDATION #1 PROVIDE APPROPRIATE LANDSCAPE IN THE FRONT AND BACKYARD:

- A. Back and front yard landscaped.
- B. Kitchen cabinets cleaned.
- C. Refrigerator replaced. (receipt attached)
- D. Walls and floors cleaned, cabinet drawers in both bathrooms repaired.
- E. Worn sofa removed from facility.
- F. Carpet along the baseboard in den to be replaced May 1<sup>st</sup> 2006.
- G. Age appropriate Board games purchased.
- H. Computer donated to the facility from Micro One Computer Co, Encarta program installed.

## RECOMMENDATION #2 PROGRAM SERVICES:

- A. New World I.L.P. will develop a treatment team to include input from the child in the development and implementation of the N.S.P.'s They will be maintained quarterly.
- B. New World I.L.P. will develop a comprehensive, more measurable N.S.P.'s that are more specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include long and short term goals, that will be maintained on a quarterly basis.

May 11, 2006  
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**RECOMMENDATION #3 ALLOWANCE INCREASE:**

**A. New World has implemented and will maintain the required weekly allowance increase to \$10.00.**

Sincerely,

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**Yolanda Langdon**  
**Administrator**

May. 26 2002 07:17PM P4

FAX NO. :

FROM :

# New World Independent Living

May 11, 2006

Dept. of Auditor Controller,  
500 W. Temple St. Room 515-A  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90012  
Re: Corrective Action Plan: RANCHEROS

Attention: Candace Rhue

The following recommendations have been implemented at New World Independent Living Program  
(Site 3) 17007 RANCHEROS RD. RIVERSIDE, CA. 92504

## RECOMMENDATION #1 PROVIDE APPROPRIATE LANDSCAPE IN THE BACKYARD

- A. Backyard landscaped.
- B. Repaired blinds in the family room.
- C. Faucet in bathroom one repaired.
- D. Dresser drawers in bedroom two replaced.
- E. Closet door in bedroom two repaired.

## RECOMMENDATION #2 PROGRAM SERVICES

- A. New World I.L.P. will develop a comprehensive, more measurable N.S.P.'s that are more specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include long and short term goals, that will be maintained on a quarterly basis.
- B. New World I.L.P. will also develop a treatment team to include input from the child in the development and implementation of the N.S.P.'s They will be maintained quarterly.

## RECOMMENDATION #3 ALLOWANCE INCREASE

- A. New World has implemented and will maintained the required weekly allowance increase to \$10.00.

The Facility Administrator will be responsible for implementing and monitoring the corrective action plan and its ongoing maintenance.

  
Yolanda Langdon

Facility Administrator